

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A card with a microprocessor and contacts, and a communication device in the form of a hard-wired circuit disposed between the contacts and the microprocessor ~~and operating according to an asynchronous communication protocol to check~~ that checks the integrity of signals transmitted between the microprocessor and a terminal, wherein said communication device includes means to generate and return at least one item of information to the terminal which is a function of the signals received from the terminal.

2. (Previously Presented) A card with a microprocessor and contacts according to Claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises:

- a circuit for analysing electrical signals transmitted by the terminal so as to supply a series of electrical pulses,

- a circuit for checking the series of electrical pulses in order to determine the integrity of the series of electrical pulses and to supply a code indicating the status of the check,

- a circuit for determining each character from the pulses in the series,

- a first plurality of registers for recording characters of a command and an address supplied by the character determination circuit and making them available to the microprocessor,

- a second plurality of registers for recording characters of data supplied by the character determination circuit and making them available to the microprocessor,
- a circuit for acknowledging the command, associated with the first plurality of registers, for analysing the characters of the command and supplying a code indicating a command reception status,
- a third plurality of registers for recording codes for the data and for the status of execution of the command supplied by the microprocessor, and
- a circuit for transmitting to the terminal the codes supplied by the checking circuit, the command acknowledgement circuit and the third plurality of registers.

3. (Previously Presented) A card with microprocessor and contacts according to Claim 2, wherein the analysis circuit detects the signals transmitted and presents them in the form of a series of binary electrical pulses.

4. (Previously Presented) A card with a microprocessor and contacts according to Claim 2 wherein the checking circuit checks for a binary parity digit or a cyclic redundancy code and supplies a corresponding signal or code.

5. (Previously Presented) A card with a microprocessor and contacts card according to Claim 3, wherein the checking circuit checks for a binary parity digit or a cyclic redundancy code and supplies a corresponding signal or code.

6. (Previously Presented) The card of claim 1, wherein the item of information generated by said generating means comprises an indication whether a signal received from the terminal contains an error.

7. (Previously Presented) The card of claim 6, wherein said generating means generates said indication on the basis of redundant information contained in the received signal.

8. (Previously Presented) The card of claim 1, wherein the item of information generated by said generating means comprises an indication whether a command contained in a signal received from the terminal is complete and correct.

9. (New) The card of claim 1, wherein said communication device operates according to an asynchronous communication protocol.